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# New Buffalo Times

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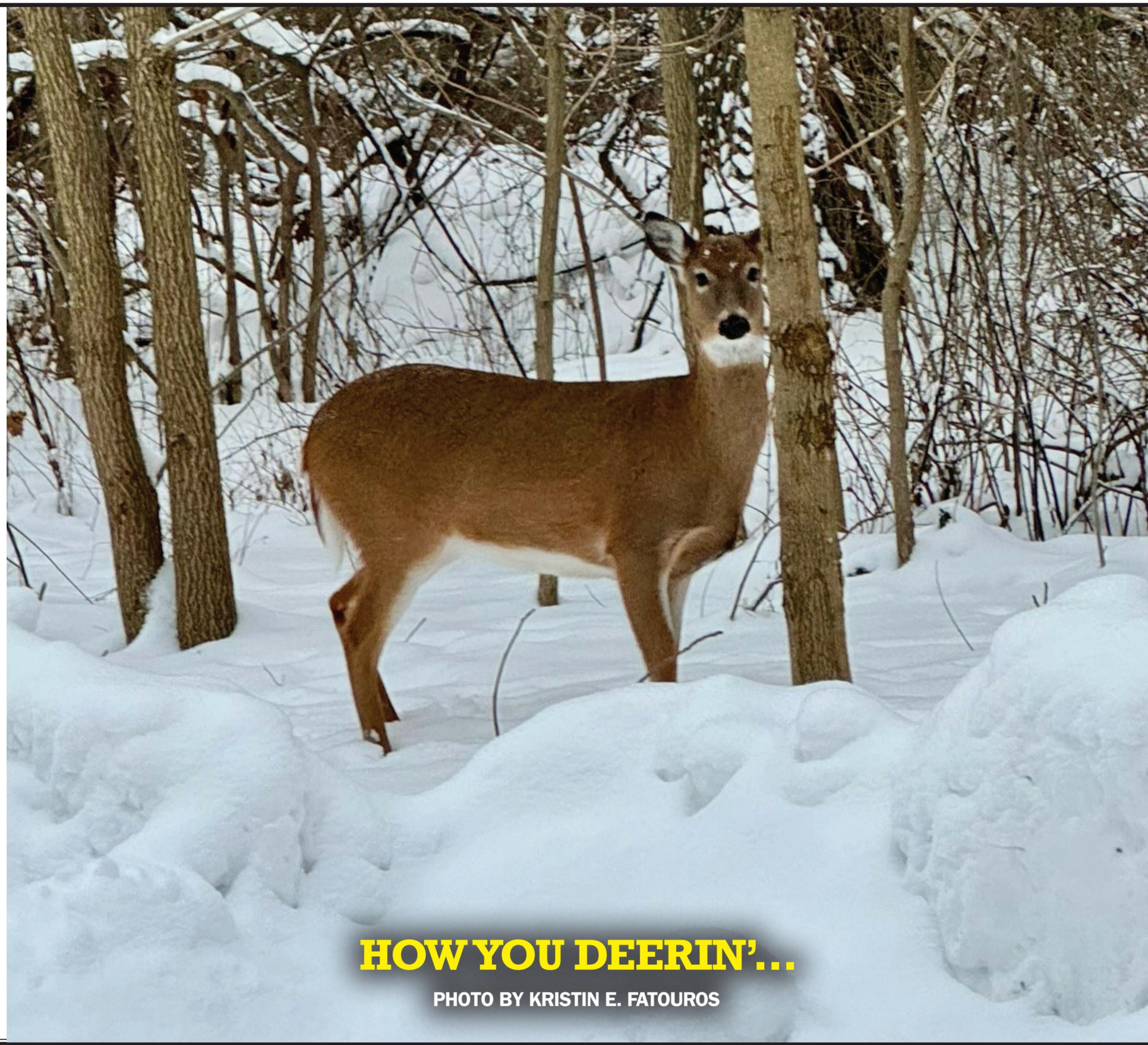

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# Berrien County Health Department offers safety tips to prepare for winter in Michigan

As winter settles in, the Berrien County Health Department reminds community members of the safety measures to take to prepare.

Winterizing homes and vehicles are two important aspects of ensuring the safety of community members. Only 64% of individuals who live in winter-prone areas feel prepared for a winter storm, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"By taking proactive measures, community members can ensure the safety of their homes and loved ones," said Jeff Thornton, emergency preparedness coordinator. "Michigan winters can be unpredictable, and planning ahead can be a lifesaver."

**BCHD offers the following tips:**

GENERAL TIPS:

- Keep your phone charged.
- If you lose power, know where community warming shelters are.
- Keep a supply of shelf-stable food that can be prepared without a stove or microwave.
- Assemble an emergency kit, including prescription medication, a three-day supply of nonperishable food per person, a first-aid kit, flashlight and extra batteries, a battery-powered radio, three gallons of water per person, whistle to signal for help, warm bedding, clothes, pet supplies, a list of family emergency contact information and medication.

WINTERIZING YOUR HOME:

- Insulate windows and doors to conserve heat.
- To prevent pipes from freezing, leave water dripping.
- Open cabinet doors in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to remove harmful cleaners and household chemicals that may be stored there first.
- Know where your water valves are so you can turn them off and prevent your pipes from bursting.
- Clean gutters to prevent ice dams.
- Check your heating system and schedule a maintenance check.
- Purchase a backup heating system, such as a generator. Never use a generator in your home – it should always be used outdoors Follow all safety instructions on the generator.
- Never use gas stoves or other unapproved devices to heat your home.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors near every sleeping area. Check your $CO_2$ sensors because heating systems can cause the $CO_2$ emissions to rise.

PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE:

- Check the tread on your tires and regularly check your tire pressure.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent fuel line freezing.
- If traveling, take note of landmarks, street signs, mile markers, etc. This will aid first responders in getting to you.
- Turn your hazard lights on when you pull over.
- Have a routine check on your radiator system, engine and heating system.
- Check brakes, brake fluid, oil and car battery.
- Wear warm clothes and keep blankets in the car.
- Pack an emergency kit and include a battery-powered radio, flashlight, phone charger, nonperishable food, bottled water, first-aid kit, blankets and a tire repair kit.

For more information on preparing for winter, visit www.michigan.gov/miready/be-informed/winter-prep. — **STAFF REPORTS**

## RESCHEDULED MISS SPIRIT OF BLOSSOMTIME PAGEANT THIS WEEKEND

Due to last week's snowstorm, the Miss Spirit of Blossomtime Pageant has been rescheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the St. Joseph High School Auditorium.

This year, 20 young ladies will compete for the title of Miss Spirit 2024, which will be crowned by the reigning 2023 Miss Spirit, Lauren Vegter, from the community of Stevensville, during the pageant.

Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with tickets available at the Blossomtime office 269-982-8016, or at the door for $25 with cash or check.

The Miss Spirit of Blossomtime Pageant is open to all Blossomtime communities' first runners up and offers one more lady an opportunity to enjoy the many events and activities her sister queens will participate in.

The winner of Miss Spirit will go on to compete in the Showcase of Queens/ Mr. Blossomtime Pageant Sunday, April 14, and is eligible to win all the queen awards at the Sunday night showcase.

For the Miss Blossomtime Pageant she will also be eligible for all awards and titles, including the title of Miss Blossomtime Monday, April 15, at the Lake Michigan College, Mendel Center in Benton Harbor. — STAFF REPORTS

***That state is best ordered when the wicked have no command, and the good have.*** — *Pittacus of Mytilene*

# Local Government Meetings

## New Buffalo Times

**Democracy Requires Transparency**

**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO**
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
**CITY COUNCIL**
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
**SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP**
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
**THREE OAKS**
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
**GRAND BEACH**
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

**MICHIANA**
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

# Grand Beach Village Council talks beaches

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The beaches of Grand Beach took center stage at the Grand Beach Village Council's Wednesday, Jan. 17, meeting.

Peter Doerr, council member and parks and beaches commissioner, said that members of the Parks and Recreation Committee want to target certain beaches that they believe "can open sooner rather than later."

He said it makes sense to seek estimates now with regards to performing work on the beach accesses, such as for viewing platforms and stairs.

Doerr said they're targeting six beaches, all of which have ample parking and currently represent various areas of the community: Ely, where a platform has already been put in; Pine, where a platform will be put in; Whitewood; Pumphouse; Robin Lane, which needs work and Jensen Beach, where there is and has been beach.

He added that there aren't really beaches at Ely and Robin Lane yet.

Doerr added that there are a lot of new people in the village who may not be aware that they can park in certain areas, such as at Ely and Pine.

"If you don't know those access points, you would pull up and think you're parking on someone's lawn if you're not parking on the sidewalks - you're not, it's our access point, people improved it and made it look nice but it's ours," he said.

Discreet signage letting people know they're not infringing on someone's property and they can park there would be helpful, he said.

Doerr added that they'd also like to start thinking about getting estimates for stairs at Ely and Pine.

Council member Blake O'Halloran said that "pretty good crowds of people" congregate at Ely and park right at the sidewalk because they "don't want to be disrespectful to the owner's property."

Putting something up stating that someone could park their golf cart between two signs would be helpful.

Council president Harry Walder said that he'd come back with pricing on putting signage up at the beach access points, with the accesses being labeled by their street names.

Council members approved seeking Pokagon Fund grant funding from the village's discretionary funds for Lake Street Beach building/walkway/viewing platform/beach stair, with Walder adding that the village has $52,000 in its discretionary funds.

After consulting with the village attorney, council members approved amending Ordinance 2008-73 House Number Display Ordinance.

Walder said the revision would make the ordinance consistent with the actions that the council took last November, which were to purchase black and white house address signs to be placed in the village's right of way and to recoup the fee and installation by charging $50 on the water bill and new construction homes paying $100 before being issued an occupancy permit.

Walder said residents don't have to do anything with their existing signage and everything will be handled by the police department.

Council members approved entering into a contract with Great Lakes Forestry Management for $20,000, with $10,000 of it coming from the grant the village was awarded and $10,000 coming from village funds.

Council members approved a proposal from Merritt Engineering for $6,000 with regards to the golf course intake study.

Golf commissioner O'Halloran said that he, Clay Putnam of Servicscape and superintendent Bob Dabbs will be involved.

O'Halloran said they should not be without water for the golf course come summer.

"This is unfortunately a day we hoped would never come but it's here and we have to go through the procedures and steps properly and make sure we get this thing up and running - I think this is a good first step," he said.

Dabbs said he'll review with Robb Merritt a temporary solution if they can't find a permanent one in time.

Council members approved a tree ordinance, as presented.

Walder distributed a Michigan Department of Transportation survey, which is available at grandbeach.org, regarding updates to MDOT's Complete Streets policy. Residents can voice their concerns on the non motorized Marquette Greenway that will be added to Grand Beach Road and cross over the railroad tracks onto U.S. Highway 12.

Walder said having a "fairly large number of residents" react to the survey would alert MDOT to the "concern we have with the confluence of automobiles and bikes at that railroad crossing."

O'Halloran added that businesses could be added to the mix, as marijuana dispensaries are going up in that area.

Due to the large amount of work it would take, Walder said that the village charter won't be redone; however, changes will be brought to the council regarding out of date items.

Oral arguments will be heard before a judge Feb. 6 in Grand Rapids with regard to the lawsuit regarding the Public Safety Special Assessment District by New Buffalo Township. Walder said the Michigan Municipal League will be there assisting village attorney Sara Senica.

***We become just by performing just action, temperate by performing temperate actions, brave by performing brave action.*** — *Aristotle*

# TOWN SQUARE

## LETTERS TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*:

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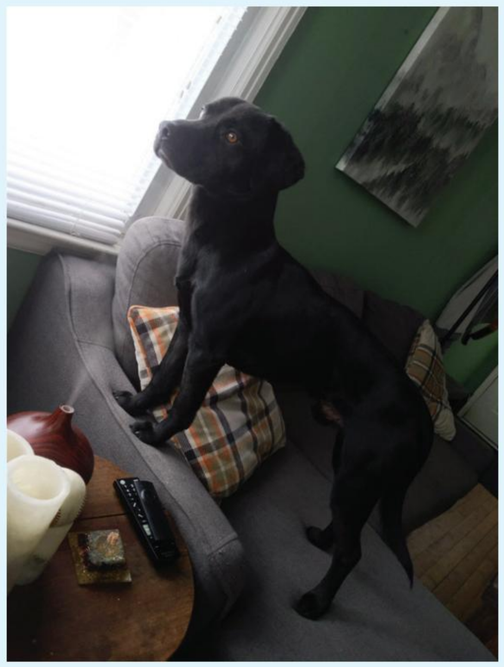
### LOST DOG FOUND!!!

At 4:44 on Tuesday morning, Smokey found his way home.

This past Saturday, Smokey, a 2-year-old lab/beagle mix, got free on the trails behind Washington and Chicago St. After an hour of searching and spotting his prints leading over the train tracks into the neighboring woods, the call went out for help. The response from the community was beyond comprehension.

Friends, strangers, family, and our great police and fire department jumped in their cars, flew their drones, started up snowmobiles, and hiked through the fresh powder to look for him. Posts spread quickly on social media, and through the power of positive energy and unconditional love, I believe, brought him back to us.



When he came through his doggie door, he was wet, warm, skinny, and without his harness or leash. But still full of his licks and love. The same love he has given to his community for his two years of life and the same love his community gave back to him for over 65 hours.

If you see him sniffing the streets on one of our next walks, please say hi. He would like to thank you.

I would like to thank you.

— BRANDON GODSEY

# Michigan struggling with fungus infected corn

BY STAN MADDUX

Grain elevators in Michigan are having problems with shipments of corn being docked on pricing or rejected because of high levels of a toxin derived from a fungus that can make livestock eating it sick.

Vomitoxin with levels as high as 50 parts per million are turning up in some of the corn particularly on the east side of the state.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, recommended levels of vomitoxin should not exceed 10 ppm in grains and grain by-products for chickens and cattle.

Levels should not be above 5 ppm for swine, which are more prone to becoming sick from ingesting VOM tainted corn.

The symptoms in farm animals include lack of appetite and slower weight gain.

Infected corn is nothing new but corn with such high levels of VOM and the amount of it containing lower but still unacceptable amounts in Michigan is definitely turning heads.

"It is a historically bad year for it," said Chris Betz, a risk manager for the privately owned Michigan Agricultural Commodities.

MAC, which is headquartered in Lansing, is the largest handler of grain in Michigan with elevators across much of the state.

A wet growing season especially during a cool late summer and early fall are blamed for what could be the highest amount of VOM infected corn in the state in decades.

Betz said the amount of corn with elevated levels of vomitoxin is not quite as high at MAC elevators further north and drops even more to the west.

"As a general rule of thumb, it gets worse as you go from west to east," he said.

Betz said buyers are taking roughly ten cents a bushel off the price for some of the shipments of corn with minimal amounts of the toxin.

Corn with higher, but still acceptable levels of VOM, are seeing larger price cuts while some buyers are rejecting shipments exceeding the recommended amount.

Betz said the standard price for corn is about $4 a bushel.

A majority of their rejected shipments have been from ethanol plants, who rely on the sale of distiller's grains used as feed by farmers to help with their profit margins.

However, the amount of the livestock sickening toxin multiplies by percentage in distiller's grains, a by-product of corn fermented into ethanol.

"It's more concentrated," he said.

Betz said rejected corn is taken back to the elevators and blended with less toxic corn to reduce the average levels of the toxin in the next shipment.

The goal of blending is to avoid more shipments from being rejected or discounted in price.

Betz said another option is finding more chicken farmers to sell corn to since poultry is not nearly as vulnerable to sickness from ingesting VOM tainted feed.

"If you have low enough VOM levels, you can still work it into the chicken feed but not swine," he said.

Betz would not provide any specific monetary details, but said there has been a cost from having more infected corn than usual.

In addition to discounted pricing, operating costs are higher from blending rejected corn with less toxic kernels and storing corn for longer periods to wait for buyers.

"If nothing else, it changes where we're able to market our corn. So, yeah, it does have a financial impact," he said.

Betz said he expects MAC to lean on farmers who sold them the corn to recover at least some of their lost revenue.

"If we're discounted on what we sell, we try to discount appropriately the producers as well. It affects everybody down the chain," he said.

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# SCHOLASTICS

## New Buffalo school board approves interim elementary principal

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved employing Cassondra King in the position of interim elementary principal, effective Jan. 29, 2024, at their Monday, Jan. 22, meeting.

King has been with the Lakeshore School District for the past 18 years. Currently, she's a first grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that King was a part of the application process for elementary school principal last spring, with some school board members also being a part of the interview process.

While the title says "interim" Bowen said that, if everything works out well, the goal would be to remove that title at the end of the school year and have King become the future elementary principal.

"If she is able to work with us starting on Monday, Jan. 29, she'll be able to spend time with Dr. Lindley to help her transition over," he said, adding that King needs to give her two week's notice for her current place of work.

Board members had approved Lindley, a former superintendent and interim superintendent, as interim elementary principal until further notice at their Jan. 8 meeting. They accepted the voluntary resignation of Michael Megyesi, the former principal, at a special meeting last week.

Board members amended the 2023-2024 budget, as presented.

Business manager Pano Arvanitis said that voters renewed a 19.5741 mills property tax, which will expire Dec. 31, 2025, in March 2020. He said that next spring would be the "optimal time" to hold another election to renew the millage. At this point in time, the district would only be levying 18 mills.

The millage is levied on non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property to be used for operating purposes. Arvanitis said that, based on current taxable value, this levy is worth about $14.9 million of the district's funding, which is 71% this year.

In the general fund, local revenues were about $16.7 million, state revenues were $2.6 million, federal revenues were $1.3 million and other financing sources were $240,972 for $21.4 million worth of revenues this year. The fund balance for June 30 is projected to be $4.1 million.

Superintendent Adam Bowen with interim elementary principal Cassondra King

Payroll and benefits account for about 70% of district expenses, with other expenses accounting for 30%, with total expenses being $21.4 million.

Board members heard an update on the New Buffalo Area Schools Daycare from director Kate Nicolai.

The daycare is staffed for 46 students ages 2 and a half years to 4 years old.

There are two classrooms: the "Prairie" room, which has five full time students and one part-time one and one lead teacher and full-time aid and the "Savanna" room, which has four full time students and three part time ones and one lead teacher. Two students attend after school programming, which has a part time aid, from the elementary's preschool.

Nicolai said that they're up for their license renewal in March.

Staff development is a priority, as each member of the team must conduct 13 continuing credit hours in early childhood education.

Feedback from the community has been with regards to age limits and lack of year-round coverage.

Requirements for going younger include board approval and increasing staff and license requirements.

A year-round daycare would require board approval and the staff, which has already committed to staying year-round, needing their insurance paid year-round, along with the rent.

Nicolai said that she's being "conservative" when she says that she has 10 people who would sign up tomorrow if the daycare went year-round.

"So it is a way to increase the revenue piece to offset some of the cost," she said.

The year-round schedule would run for 260 days, which is outside of weekends and 10 federal holidays.

Bowen said that, to get everything "up and running" in September, it was decided that the daycare would operate on the school district's schedule.

"Now that we've had time to breathe, it makes sense to take a look at those kinds of things moving forward," he said.

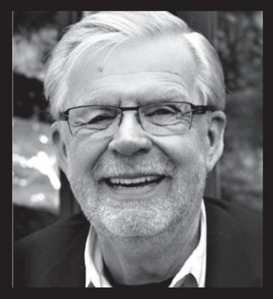
Bowen said that he and Lindley will be meeting with Thrun Law Firm to hopefully finalize the contract with the potential developer for Bison Preserve, the planned attainable housing development on Lubke Road.

A representative from Studor Education will be at the next meeting to launch the strategic planning process. A morning and evening session will also be held to solicit feedback from parents. In March, he'll return to meet with focus groups. The information will be used to help figure out the district's financial and academic goals and building improvements, Bowen said.

***The journey itself is my home.*** — *Matsuo Basho*

# SPORTS

## From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The weather has been frightful but the football games have been delightful.

Two weekends in a row, the NFL playoffs have thoroughly entertained football fans and kept them safe and warm on their sofas. There is one more weekend of playoff football and the teams that remain are the cream of the crop, so I expect the games to be top notch.

Baltimore plays San Francisco and Kansas City takes on Detroit for the right to play each other in the "Big Game". The Lions have been absent from big games like these for decades so I will be cheering for them to win their first championship.

The Bears better have an excellent off season because their division has proven to have a couple of excellent teams this year. Beating Green Bay and Detroit next year is not going to be easy.

Sadly, in a few weeks, the football season will be complete, but happily, soon thereafter, it will be springtime and pitchers and catchers will be reporting for spring training. While football can be exciting, in my life nothing beats baseball.

I played on my high school basketball team back in the day. My friends and I had many periods of success and a few years where we didn't fare as well, but the relationships I formed with some of my teammates have lasted to this day. During Bear games and playoff games, a bunch of us are on the phone with each other second guessing plays and players alike. Sports are the basis for some friendships but for me, baseball brings me closer than any other sport.

From the days I used to sneak out of the house and run to Fernwood Park with my mitt, ball, and glove, and wait for my friends to arrive, to playing catch with my grandkids, baseball has been an important part of my life. In the 7th grade, my teacher wanted us to make a "career book" and when I thought about what I really wanted to do with the rest of my life, of course my choice was baseball player.

When I went out on my first date, the conversation became strained at some point and as I was thinking of what to say next, all I could think of was "how about those Cubbies."

My love for baseball, and particularly the Chicago Cubs is lifelong. No matter how great all the other sports are, nothing will ever replace baseball as the number one sport in my heart. The Bears championship season, the Bulls and Michael Jordan, and the Blackhawks Stanley Cup victories all brought me joy, but the Cubs, and to a lesser extent, the White Sox championships were the best.

While thinking about baseball, my mind kept returning to the lyrics of an old Tom Waits song A Sight For Sore Eyes. "That we toast to the old days and DiMaggio too. And old Drysdale and Mantle, Whitey Ford and to you."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

# Woman charged with fatal dog poisoning

BY STAN MADDUX

A Michigan City woman could face time in prison for the alleged poisoning of a roommate's dog, which suffered for several days prior to death.

Brienna Comer, 23, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with animal cruelty for domestic violence purpose, a level 6 felony.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said her alleged criminal actions in October stemmed from a personal dispute inside a home occupied by her and several other individuals in the 400 block of Hayes Street.

So far, authorities have not shed any further light on the motive for the poisoning.

Fagan said more on what drove her alleged actions will be revealed if the case is presented to a jury.

"Any evidence regarding a personal dispute will be brought out in witness testimony at trial," he said.

According to court records, Comer is accused of giving the brown and white pit bull synthetic marijuana to eat.

After consuming the drug, the health of the animal, "Bruno," began to rapidly deteriorate with symptoms that included vomiting and heavy blood in his stool.

A few days later, police said the dog was not able to walk from his legs just "thrashing about."

Unable to afford medical treatment for the dog, the pet owner asked a friend to put down his pet, which he did by striking Bruno on the head with a hammer, according to court records.

The investigation shows Comer, a regular user of the synthetic drug, moved out after the dog was poisoned, police said.

She also left a short but hateful, obscenity filled voice message on the Facebook account of a now former roommate in the home about what she did to the animal, police said.

Initially, the voice message was kept a secret from the pet owner because of how devastated he was over Bruno's death.

He went to the police about a week later after loved ones, who felt he had recovered enough, made him aware of the recording.

According to investigators, when ingested by dogs, synthetic marijuana can make them lethargic, very wobbly and cause them to refuse to eat or drink.

Investigators said the odds of dying from synthetic marijuana poisoning are higher without early treatment.

Police were able to gather enough evidence for a judge to issue an arrest warrant for Comer about two weeks after the dog's death.

She was taken into custody Dec. 13 in downstate Martinsville, where the warrant turned up during a computer check by police outside a Pet Smart store.

According to police, officers were called there on a report of Comer and three other individuals causing disruption inside the business.

She was transferred to the La Porte County Jail Jan. 8 to face the animal cruelty charges, which could bring her an up to 30-month sentence.

# Bison boys storm back to win in basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team stormed back after halftime to defeat Countryside Academy 55-49 at home Wednesday, Jan. 24.

The Bison leading by six points after the first quarter were outscored by 17 points in the second quarter.

The Cougars came alive behind the dazzling play of Isiah Woods, who sank shots from seemingly everywhere on the court.

The Bison seemed rattled by the much higher level of play suddenly by the Cougars, who topped it off with a thunderous slam dunk from Dante Tate.

After stealing a pass at half court, there was nothing between Tate and the rim when he dribbled into the paint and went airborne.

The crowd roared when he threw the ball hard into the net with one hand.

The second half, though, was a much different story for the Bison players, who regained their composure and relied on finding open shooters for easy buckets close to the rim with nifty passes.

The Cougars opened up the third quarter by extending their lead to 19 points.

A three point bucket from sophomore Sam Tripp seemed to trigger the Bison come back.

The Bison pulled to within 11 points when sophomore Lucas Forker laid the ball into the rim after catching a pass from senior Elliott Bourne.

The lead was cut to seven points when Bourne with the ball found sophomore M'Nason Smothers, who caught the pass and sank a five foot turn around jump shot.

Another three point shot from Tripp pulled the Bison to within two points at the end of the third quarter.

The Bison took the lead early in the fourth quarter when Bourne sank a three point shot from the baseline then drove in for a lay-up.

New Buffalo later grabbed a six point lead from another Bourne lay-up then went ahead by eight points when senior Andres Becera drove into the paint and nailed an eight foot jump shot.

The Cougars narrowed the lead to three points with nine seconds left on the clock but two free throws from Bourne secured the victory.

Forker led the Bison attack with 16 points while Bourne scored 14 points.

Smothers and sophomore Nick Haskins contributed eight and seven points respectively.

New Buffalo Head Nate Tripp said one of the keys in the comeback was bringing in the zone defense closer to the rim after halftime.

That stopped the Cougars from driving into the paint for easy shots and forced them to shoot more from the outside.

Tripp also said his players also stayed calm and were very sharp with their passing.

"The guys did phenomenal. They know how to look for each other. They got chemistry," he said.

Tripp said having to take Haskins out of the game for an extended period due to early foul trouble was the main reason for the problems in the second quarter because that forced some players out of their regular positions.

# First win of season for Lady Bison

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School girls' basketball team notched its first victory of the season at home Wednesday, Jan. 24.

The Lady Bison (1-6) defeated Countryside Academy 31-16.

Head Coach Rich Knoll and his players seemed very satisfied judging by the happy expressions on their faces after the game clock in the final quarter ran out of time.

"I have worked with these kids and they have worked to get better. I saw some of the best basketball I've seen this year from them. I was really pleased," he said.

New Buffalo led 16-10 at halftime.

A confident Knoll told his players before the start of the third quarter to keep executing and avoid costly mistakes that could allow the Cougars back in the game.

"It's yours to win," he said.

Senior Libby Lamport wasted no time in taking the coach's advice by sinking a 15 foot shot less than a minute into the third quarter.

Freshman Harper Bowman extended the lead to 10 points by nailing a short baseline jump several minutes later.

The Cougars quickly pulled to within six points.

Following an offensive rebound from junior Abby Lamport, the ball wound up in the hands of freshman point guard Laney Strother, who hit a shot from beyond the three point line to make the score 23-14.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Lady Bison never looked back with the lead growing to 15 points after Strother grabbed an offensive rebound close to the rim and put the ball into the net.

Strother led all scorers with 11 points.

Knoll complimented the play of Strother, easily the best ball handler on the court for the Lady Bison.

"Where Laney goes, we go. She's our floor general and she did that well tonight," he said.

He also pointed to most of the other players scoring and the balanced attack that brought to the offense.

"It was a team effort," Knoll said.

The renovated Bentwood Tavern

Chamber members gather in the living room area of the Marina Grand

The Marina Grand Resort on Water Street

# Renovated Marina Grand Resort spotlighted at mixer

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A New Buffalo getaway that has been in the community for almost two decades has undergone a "relaxed" facelift.

"The mission was to build a space where not only the community but our guests could just hang out - to get together in a relaxed, low key space," Robert Kemper, managing director and president of the Marina Grand Resort, said

The upgrades were unveiled to members of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce at their mixer Monday, Jan. 22.

The lobby has been transformed into a living room. Guests are free to make themselves at home on the couches and tables, while utilizing the free Wi-Fi. An "inspiration wall," which is full of art pieces and books, will hopefully spark inspiration for those who are throwing themselves into their latest projects. Coffee and espresso drinks and a light breakfast are served in the morning, followed by beer and wine and coffee drinks in the evening.

A wall has been opened up, which reveals another space with more couches and a fireplace. Sunlight streams through the windows, brightening the atmosphere.

Bentwood Tavern has gotten its own space, with a corridor separating it from the resort.

"So, the energy's a little different: This is more relaxed in the living room and Bentwood is more lively - it's a tavern," Kemper said.

The menu for the restaurant, which has low ceilings, has more "sharing dishes" - what Kemper defined as being dishes containing items that guests can share. It's also more plant focused.

"We feel that's kind of a missing element in New Buffalo - there's not a lot of places that offer great salads and vegetables," he said.

Kemper said it took six to nine months to do the facelift, which was done over the course of two years.

The upstairs event space and the suites were first before the living room and Bentwood were remodeled last winter. In 2020, the nearby Harbor Grand Hotel, which is also managed by Kemper, was remodeled.

Next up, Kemper hopes to redo the indoor and outdoor pool area and the entryway.

The Marina Grand opened in 2006.

"For us, we kind of were making all the moves we felt weren't right in the first place, so correct all those things and make it more comfortable for everyone, the hotel guests and locals and just really kind of be what we always wanted to be...Now, it all belongs together and makes sense," Kemper said.

At the mixer, Kemper also introduced Andrew Bell, who's the director of marketing and communications.

The Marina Grand Resort is located at 600 West Water St. in New Buffalo. More information can be found at marinagrandresort.com.

In chamber news, executive director Kimberlee Wendt said at the mixer that the chamber has been striving to get the word out about Harbor Country, particularly in the three-state area. The chamber will be hosting a booth at the Michiana Boat Show in South Bend. Recently, the Harbor Country Guide was handed out at the Chicago Travel Show and Grand Rapids Travel, RV Camping Show.

The Guide's reveal party will be April 18, with the location to be determined. The 2024 publication will highlight each one of Harbor Country's communities, including Bridgman. The community was officially embraced by the chamber earlier this month and is now under the Harbor Country umbrella.

The Harbor Country trademark was established 43 years ago, with the communities of New Buffalo, Union Pier, Harbert, Sawyer, Three Oaks, Grand Beach, Michiana and Lakeside under its umbrella.

"This is the first time in our history a community was added to the original eight," Wendt said.

Michael Carlson and David McNabb talk in front of the inspiration wall

Guest gather near the fire in a newly opened space

Managing director and president Robert Kemper chats with chamber members

# Charges in attempted disarming of police officer

BY STAN MADDUX

A man is accused of grabbing the gun of a La Porte Police Officer and injuring him during a physical confrontation.

Samuel Sharp, 21, was booked Jan. 18 into the La Porte County Jail last week on charges of battery and attempted disarming of a law enforcement officer, both Level 5 felonies.

According to the charging information filed in La Porte Circuit Court, Sharp on July 21 was acting erratically in the 100 block of E. Lincolnway after consuming some THC infused edibles.

He was given a ride to Northwest Health so he could be seen by medical professionals as a precaution for his own safety.

While being seen by nurses, police said Samuel stood up.

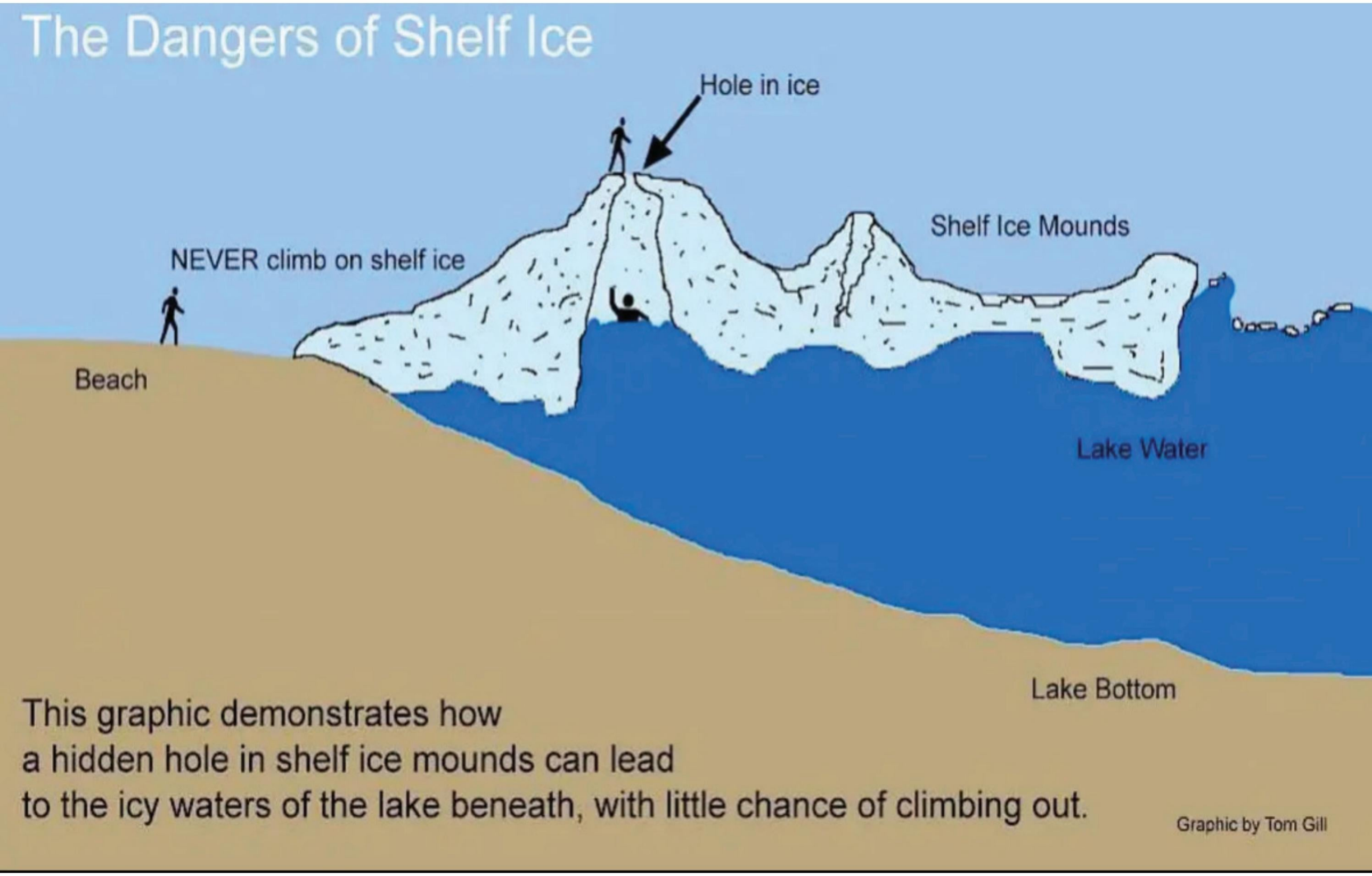
A police officer was trying to get him to sit back down when his gun was grabbed by Samuel, who was unable to pull weapon out of the holster because of the lock safety design of the holster, according to court documents.

Police said the officer and another law enforcement representative fought with Sharp to try and get him to release his grip on the gun.

Eventually, Sharp let go of the weapon then struck one of the officers on the head, police said.

According to court documents, the officer may have suffered a concussion judging by symptoms like a headache, ringing in the ears and pain in his jaw.

Each count carries a potential one to six year sentence.


The Dangers of Shelf Ice
Hole in ice
Shelf Ice Mounds
NEVER climb on shelf ice
Beach
Lake Water
Lake Bottom
This graphic demonstrates how
a hidden hole in shelf ice mounds can lead
to the icy waters of the lake beneath, with little chance of climbing out.
Graphic by Tom Gill

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH**
**BERRIEN COUNTY,**
**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-110**
**TREE ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND GROWTH OF TREES IN THE VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH, MICHIGAN.**

**THE VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH ORDAINS:**

**Section 1: Purpose**
Trees are a critical part of the Village of Grand Beach's infrastructure and are closely connected with the public health, safety, and welfare of the community. The Village Council has enacted this regulatory ordinance to preserve, maintain, and increase the trees and forests that:

- Protect public investments such as stormwater systems, erosion control, public utilities, streets
- Create a healthy environment by reducing heat islands and lessening noise
- Enhance quality of life and the character of residential neighborhoods

**Section 2: Definitions** - (see also Standards & Specifications appendix for additional definitions and arboricultural terms)

*Damage* - any injury to or destruction of a tree, including but not limited to: uprooting; severance of all or part of the root system or main trunk; storage of material on or compaction of surrounding soil; a substantial change in the natural grade above a root system or around a trunk; surrounding the tree with impervious paving materials; or any trauma caused by accident or collision.

*Nuisance* - any tree, or limb thereof, that has an infectious disease or insect; is dead or dying; obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or threatens public health, safe and welfare.

*Parks & Recreation Committee (PRC)* - Grand Beach Parks & Recreation Committee

*Parkway* - the area along a public street between the curb and the sidewalk; or if there is no curb or sidewalk, the unpaved portion of the area between the street right-of-way line and the paved portion of the street.

*Public Property* - all grounds, Parkways, and rights-of-way (ROWs) owned or maintained by Village of Grand Beach.

*Private Property* - all land not held by the municipal body, county, state, or federal government for public purposes and as shown on the New Buffalo Township assessor's records.

*Public tree* - any tree or woody vegetation on village-owned or village-maintained property or rights-of-way.

*Public utility* - any person, firm, corporation, or other entity owning or operating any pole, line, pipe, or conduit located in any public street or over or along any public easement or right-of-way for the transmission of electricity gas, telephone service or any other means of electronic communication.

*Tree* - also means shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation.

*Top or Topping* - the non-standard practice of cutting back of limbs to stubs within a tree's crown to such a degree to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

**Section 3: Authority and Management Control**
(a) Subject to oversight and approval by the Village Council, the Parks & Recreation Committee ("PRC") shall have general management and power and authority over all trees, plants and shrubs located within the street right-of-way, public parks, and other public places of the Village; and the trees and shrubs located on Private Property that constitute a hazard or threat to the safety and well-being of residents and public in any place in the Village.

The PRC shall have full authority and responsibility to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees and woody plants growing in or upon all municipal streets, rights-of-way, city parks, and other Public Property. This shall include the removal of trees that may threaten utilities or infrastructure, or any tree that is affected by fungus, insect, or other pest disease or any disease that threatens the health of other public or private vegetation.

The PRC shall take measures as may be deemed necessary on Public Property or Private Property to control and exterminate insects, pests, plant diseases which may injure trees, plants, or shrubs in the Village.

(b) Interference: No person shall directly or indirectly hinder, prevent, delay, or interfere with the PRC or their agents while engaged in carrying out the execution or enforcement of this Ordinance.

**Section 4: Tree planting and care standards**
(a) Standards: All planting and maintenance of public trees shall conform to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 "Standards for Tree Care Operation" and shall follow all tree care Best Management Practices (BMPs) published by the International Society of Arboriculture.
(b) Utilities: The maintenance of public trees for utility clearance shall conform to all applicable utility industry standards.
(c) Preferred species list: The PRC shall maintain an official list of desirable tree species for planting on Public Property.
(d) Planting distances: The PRC shall develop and maintain an official set of spacing requirements for the planting of new trees on Public Property. No new tree may be planted within the visibility triangle of a street intersection or within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.
(e) Planting or adding new trees under electric utility lines: Only trees listed as Ornamental trees on the official city tree species list may be planted under or within 15 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire.

**Section 5: Prohibition against harming public trees**
(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to damage, remove, or cause the damage or removal of a tree on Public Property without written permission from the PRC.
(b) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to attach any cable, wire, or signs or any other object to any street, park, or public tree.
(c) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to "top" any public tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, where best pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this provision at the determination of the PRC.
(d) Any person, firm, or corporation performing construction near any public tree(s) shall consult with the PRC and shall employ appropriate measures to protect the tree(s), according to procedure contained in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for "Managing Trees during Construction" published by the International Society of Arboriculture.
(e) Violations are punishable and subject to fines, penalties, and mitigation.

**Section 6: Adjacent owner responsibility**
(a) The owner of land adjacent to any Village Street or place, with the written permission of the PRC and when acting within the provisions of this Ordinance, may plant PRC-approved trees in the adjacent Parkway area and take the responsibility to maintain them.
(b) No property owner shall allow a tree, or other plant growing on his or her property to obstruct or interfere with pedestrians or the view of drivers, thereby creating a hazard. If an obstruction persists, the PRC shall notify the Private Property owner to prune or remove the tree or plant. If the owner fails to comply with the notice, the Village may undertake the necessary work and charge the cost to the property owner.

Section 6a: Boundary Line Trees (trees that are on both Public Property and Private Property)
Often these trees are large, mature, and valuable. Surveys are needed to determine the percentage of tree on which property. Arborists are often required to anticipate the outcome of solutions, required trimming, removal, or disease treatment.

**Section 7: Nuisance trees; Notice Requirements**
(a) Any tree, or limb thereof, on Public

# PUBLIC NOTICES

Property or Private Property determined by the PRC to have contracted a lethal, communicable disease or insect; to be dead or dying; to obstruct the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or that threatens public health, safety, and welfare is declared a nuisance and the Village may require its treatment or removal.

(b) Private Property owners have the duty, at their own expense, to remove or treat dead and./or nuisance trees on their property. The Village may remove such trees at the owner's expense if the owner does not comply with treatment and/or removal as specified by the PRC within the written notification period.

(c) Any written notice to be sent by the PRC or the Village under this Ordinance shall be sent by first class mail to the current address to which the property tax bill is mailed. In emergency situations, the Village may also post a notice to the front door or in another conspicuous area of the subject property.

**Section 8: Violations and penalty**
Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a municipal civil infraction and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500.00) for each offense. In addition to the fine, a person who violates this ordinance shall pay fair market value for replacement of any tree on Public Property or Parkway as determined by an appraisal of value by a certified arborist. In all instances, the City's costs of enforcement, abatement, and prosecution, including attorney fees, shall be itemized, and be added to any fine imposed by the court. In addition to the penalties provided by this section, the court shall have equitable jurisdiction to allow the Village to perform an emergency removal of any tree on private property that immediately endangers the life or safety of the public, and to enforce any judgment, writ, lien, or order necessary to enforce any provision of this chapter, including but not limited to, abatement of the violating condition or granting any injunctive relief requested by the City. Each act in violation of any of the provisions hereof shall be deemed a separate offense.

**Section 9: Appeals**
Appeals to decisions by the PRC or penalties imposed after violations of this ordinance, shall be heard by the Village Council. An aggrieved party shall submit a written appeal of a decision under this ordinance within ten (10) days of the decision to the Village Clerk.

**Section 10.** This Ordinance shall become effective 10 days after publication.

AYES: Harry Walder, James Bracewell, Blake O'Halloran, Peter Doerr
NAYS: None

**ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED**

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Kimberly Wolnik, Clerk of the Village of Grand Beach, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Village of Grand Beach, County of Berrien, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, held on January 17, 2024, and that said Meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

**KIMBERLY WOLNIK,**
**VILLAGE CLERK**

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**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH**
**BERRIEN COUNTY,**
**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-111**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2008-73, HOUSE NUMBER DISPLAY ORDINANCE, TO INCLULDE PROVISIONS TO REQUIRE VISIBLE, REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS ON EACH RESIDENCE IN THE VILLAGE IN ORDER TO ASSIST EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL IN LOCATING RESIDENCES IN NEED OF FIRE SERVICE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE, OR DURING OTHER POLICE EMERGENCIES, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND GUESTS IN THE VILLAGE.**

**THE VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Additional Language Added to Ordinance 2008-73, "House Number Display Ordinance", Section IV B.1.** Ordinance 2008-73, "House Number Display Ordinance", Section IV B.1. shall have the following sentenced added at the end of the current Section, with all other language being maintained in Section IV.B.1:

"In addition to the signage requirements set forth in Section IV.B, each residence within the Village shall have a two-sided sign installed by the Village in the Village right of way in front of the house to the extent practicable. This two-sided vertical sign will be at least thirty inches (30") tall with a minimum of three inch (3") tall house numbers on both sides for clear visibility for those approaching from either direction of the house. The numbers on the sign shall be reflective so it is easily viewed at nighttime. The sign location for each residence will be determined by the Village Police Department. The cost to the property owner, as installed, will be $50.00 per residence as a one-time surcharge on their quarterly water bill. The one-time surcharge shall be increased to $100.00 per residence for new addresses assigned on homes under construction or not yet under construction as of November 15, 2024. Individual resident exceptions to the requirements of this Ordinance shall be allowed at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

**Section 2. Repeal of Conflicting Language.** Any prior ordinances or regulations that directly conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**Section 3. Effective Date**. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

AYES: Harry Walder, Blake O'Halloran, Peter Doerr
NAYS:

**ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Kimberly Wolnik, Clerk of the Village of Grand Beach, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Village of Grand Beach, County of Berrien, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, held on January 17, 2024, and that said Meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

**KIMBERLY WOLNIK,**
**VILLAGE CLERK**

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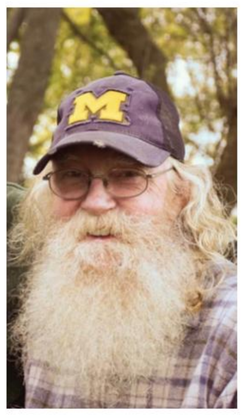
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD**

The New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority has one opening on its Board of Directors for an at-large member. The New Buffalo Area Recreational Authority was formed as a partnership between the City of New Buffalo, New Buffalo Area Schools and New Buffalo Township. The Authority was established to pursue recreational opportunities which benefited the broader New Buffalo Community. The Board of Directors of the Authority is made up of two (2) appointees from each of the partner organizations and one at-large appointee selected by the six (6) member organization appointees. Applicants must be a resident of one of the member organization's service areas.

If you are interested in serving, please submit your application by Friday, February 9, 2024 in person at 17425 Red Arrow Hwy, New Buffalo MI 49117, or by newbuffalorecreation@gmail.com.

To find our application please visit either: www.newbuffalotownship.org or www.cityofnewbuffalomi.gov

# OBITUARIES



## Allen Lee Williams, Sr.

1950-2024

Allen Lee Williams, Sr., 73, of Galien, died peacefully, Friday, January 12, 2024, in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began July 13, 1950, in South Bend, Indiana, the oldest of five children born to Leland and Mary Williams. He married Wendy Spears in Galien, Michigan November 2, 1968.

Allen was an extremely handy and helpful person, but was a lovingly stubborn man. He and Wendy spent six years, working on a cattle ranch in South Dakota. He was an avid Michigan Wolverines and Detroit Lions fan. He enjoyed his antique tools and diecast farm equipment. Allen worked on old cars for a time with his sons. He cherished his grandchildren and attended every one of their gatherings, reunions, or events. He loved being their biggest cheerleader from the sidelines at every game. Allen was a pure outdoorsman who especially enjoyed hunting.

Allen will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Wendy Williams of Galien; one daughter, Heather (Bob) Williamson of Galien; two sons, Allen Williams, Jr. of South Bend, Indiana, Patrick Williams of Battle Creek; seven grandchildren, Dylan (Brooklyn) Williamson, Tyler Williamson, Skyler Williams, Patricia Williamson, Trinity Williams, Olivia Williams, and Henry Lasko; one sister, Judy Foster of Three Oaks; one brother, Steve Williams of Mishawaka, Indiana; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Joshua Williams; two sisters, Betty Lambert, Diana Quint; and one nephew, Randy Lambert.

Family and friends gathered from 12:00 noon until time of service at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 20, 2024, in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks

The family prefers contributions in memory of Allen be made to the American Lung Association, 55 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1150, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

# A Day in the Life

## WINTER PARTIES

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

Because the furnace blower quit, I woke up to little heat last Friday.

To compensate, I wore two bulky sweaters, long underwear, cotton gloves, sheepskin slippers and a warm heart. It seems there's a switch on the furnace blower that gets stuck shut when it needs to be open. The nice repairman is ordering me one to replace the defective one and he showed me how to run it manually if necessary. Thank God for small favors. The repairman had to slosh through the drifts of snow because it had not yet been plowed. The association automatically did that last year and I didn't worry about it; however, I guess something had changed. Things change and you don't even know it. That's life too, isn't it?

Oh - guess what? They just showed up!

Which brings me to remembrances of winters at a house in the country we once had. It was on the highest mountain in lower Michigan. Two wild geese came with the package when we bought it. They were like watch dogs because when anybody came up the long driveway, the geese would honk and make a fuss about it and we would know when visitors arrived. But the geese had a horrible ending chapter: Some kids from the abandoned ski resort on the other side of the mountain, where they sometimes partied, killed these beautiful creatures! My wife, Bobbie, was so outraged that she put on her Sherlock Holmes cap and found those rotten kids. The police then stepped in and made them pay big fines and work for weeks!

Such were the ways of living in the country, I guess. We hired a young man as a kind of a "Man Friday" and he ended up stealing Bobbie's diamond tennis bracelet and other jewelry. He was caught and spent some time behind bars; so goes the wicked. The trade offs for owning the property were also great. We entertained often, including at a party. When the weather turned bad, we instructed the guests to park on the country road and we hired a horse and sleigh to bring the guests up to our mountainside home. You think that's the end of the story? Think again! It became so icy that the poor horse could not climb the mountain driveway any longer. I had booked a back up van and so we went from a quaint horse drawn entrance to a van.

So much for that touch of country living.

We had another event and the high muck, who actually ran the Detroit Police Department, attended with his wife. On that infamous night when Detroit burned, the acting chief of police was at our party 38 miles away from Detroit! He was frantic and ended up calling for a helicopter to get back to the city rebellion and conduct the police department in the out of control city. It was not a good night for a party in the country. While I was standing next to this frantic officer, the titular chief of police was being interviewed on national television. The acting police chief was next to me and watching the other chief, who was ill-spoken, rough looking and had his challenges for national TV interviews (to say the least). We all know the end result of the riot - both for Detroit and our infamous icy night party.

That was the last event we had at the country house before we moved to LaJolla, which is another story.

It's a great life if you don't weaken.

# HOROSCOPE

## JANUARY 25-31, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Some interesting winds of change are starting to circle bringing a brief cycle of opportunity with them. Look for those lucky breaks financially and with your career. The sky may look tempestuous but there could be dollar bills and a permanent gig at your feet when the sun comes back out.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20

Anchors up! Drop those sails and let the wind take you. There is a very beneficial flow of energy coming in this week. Use it to it's fullest by embracing turbulent times with faith. Know that all situations change and the one thing that is always with you, is you. Be the home you come home to.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21

Here comes the break you've been hoping for. Get ready to put some of those back burner plans into action because opportunities are briefly opening up this week. This is not the time to wait for perfect conditions, when you see an opening, no matter how small, that's when you go for it. a

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22

Even though you are not usually one to find comfort in large gatherings, this week is the time to get out and mingle. Meetings, assemblies and get-togethers are exactly what you need to spark your creative and intuitive talents. Reach out to new and old friends and get the party started.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Seize the opportunities that arise this week, that give you the chance to take more control over your everyday activities and the running of your household. Approach problems like a hammer handles a nail. Don't skate around the truth or gloss over issues and never hammer a screw; use a drill.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

There is a perfect storm brewing bringing happy and unexpected benefits with it this week. No matter how turbulent and confused things get now, remain poised because when the clouds part, you will have a clearer understanding and will make a better decision then. Wait for the sun.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Things on the home-front may feel a little hectic. Understand that these chaotic situations will prove to be opportunities to make repairs before they become unresolvable or are permanently out of service. So, handle situations as they arise and they won't be a problem later.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Understand that conversations may get heated this week or people may seem more aggressive than usual but this is an opportunity to show your strength by handling hard or taboo topics with grace and maturity. Say what needs to be said, accept hard truths and settle the score without drama.

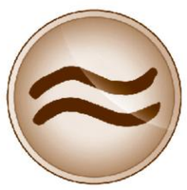
**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

There are some serendipitous winds of change blowing into your financial and luxury centers. It's time to get the most out of life and have the courage to go for the unusual and unique. Don't let anyone define what is right for you. Create your own values and worth with distinction.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Seize the opportunities this week to make yourself happy. Don't just let things pass you by. This is the time to create new and better conditions for your life. Over analyzing will just waste time. If you're going through hell, face that fire because you might make it out before the devil knows.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



This is the week to get your ideas out in the open and set up the space in your life for things to manifest. Start acting as if the ideas you have are already in practice and the things you want are physically available. Use your power of thought and visualization and the physical expression will appear.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Get the conversations started. Even if there are hot button topics or expectations that feel socially unacceptable, get them out there. Let people know how you feel, even if you think your feelings may not appear valid to them. You need to accept yourself and your own feelings first.

***Timing beats speed by a lot.*** — *Dino N. Fatouros*

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## Sudoku

*Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.*

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| | | | 2 | 4 | | 9 | | |
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| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 6 | | | | | 4 | |

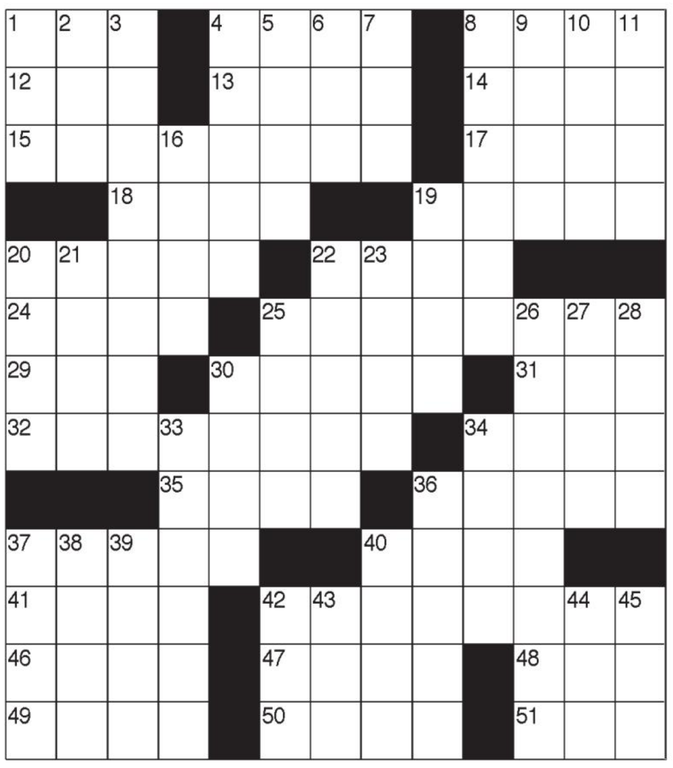
# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Male cat
4 Bull (pref.)
8 Babist
12 Jamaican dance music
13 Ironwood
14 Equal (Fr.)
15 Caucasian carpet
17 Son of Loki
18 Cornmeal
19 Papal court
20 Oily ketone
22 Parent of Seth
24 House (Sp.)
25 Jay (2 words)
29 Presidential nickname
30 Father of Rachel
31 No (Scot.)
32 Of the bank of a river
34 Chin. dynasty
35 Above
36 Fr. historical provinces
37 Seed
40 Bright-colored fish
41 Alb (arch.)
42 Sweet red wine
46 Cheese
47 Agnomen
48 Comparative (suf.)
49 Galway Bay isles
50 Above (Ger.)
51 Amer. Basketball Assn. (abbr.)

**DOWN**

1 Tongue-clicking sound
2 S.A. tuber
3 Monkey
4 Cup (Fr.)
5 Proceedings
6 Diminutive (suf.)
7 Kidney (pref.)
8 Stupefy
9 Culture medium
10 Adriatic seaport
11 Lower intestine
16 Sayings (suf.)
19 Basse-Normandie city
20 Adjective-forming (suf.)
21 Noted physicist
22 Brit. saint
23 Double
25 Pressure (pref.)
26 Emblem
27 Teem
28 Mound of sand
30 Gait
33 Soup vessel
34 Blue Nile source lake
36 Scot. court officer
37 Textile fiber
38 Vibratory sound
39 Fetish
40 Era
42 S.A. herb
43 Science class
44 Afr. cotton garment
45 Age



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# Bentwood Tavern to host give back night

Bentwood Tavern will be hosting a give back dinner Thursday, February 1, during which 50% of proceeds will support Citizens Concerned for the Homeless' Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families.

For more than a decade, Bentwood's Give Back Dinner Series has brought together neighbors, friends, and guests over food and drink to benefit the people and nonprofits in our communities.

Sand Castle helps displaced families, often single mothers and children, with shelter and skills that support sustainable self-sufficiency.

In 2023, CCH began restoring Sand Castle's 110-year old building's exterior. Through a mix of donations and grants, they hope to complete the interior renovation during the spring of 2024. The estimated cost will exceed $250,000. With diners' help, CCH will be able to provide local families with the space and tools they need to thrive.

To donate, simply dine at Bentwood Tavern Feb. 1. No coupon or voucher is needed.

Bentwood Tavern is located at 600 W. Water Street in New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

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# The Acorn's visual art initiative, 'Art at The Acorn,' remains open for artist submissions

The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts is now open for artist submission for consideration for a future exhibition at the initiative Art at the Acorn, which transforms the center into a visual art space.

In June 2023, The Acorn unveiled its new initiative, Art at The Acorn, with an artist reception for Frank Kurland and his exhibition, "Dreamscapes and more." Since then, fine arts photographer Nicolina Holt has shared her work, "Been a Boy," and Chris Brown is currently on view with "Awakening."

Brown's "Awakening" will conclude at the end of March and will be followed by "Golden Boy" by Nathan Margoni. Artwork exhibitions will rotate once approximately every three months. Artists may apply for consideration for a future exhibition.

Upcoming rotation periods are: April through June 2024 - Nathan Margoni, "Golden Boy;" July through September 2024; October through December 2024 and January through March 2025.

-One artist is featured during each exhibition/rotation period. Depending on size, generally up to 10 to 20 pieces can be displayed.

The Art at The Acorn Artist Submission Form remains open for submissions as The Acorn considers other artists for future rotation periods. Interested artists should fill out the form to be considered for a future exhibition.

If selected to be a featured artist for Art at The Acorn, additional exhibition terms will be discussed and a written agreement will be required. Transportation and installation of artwork is the responsibility of the artist. Artists must also provide their own insurance coverage and have the ability to take payment for the sale of their work.

Please contact Nikki Gauthier with any questions, nikki@acornlive.org. The Acorn is located at 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks. —

STAFF REPORTS

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# Franciscan Alliance obtaining full ownership of hospital

BY STAN MADDUX

Franciscan Alliance will fully acquire Franciscan Beacon Hospital in La Porte.

Franciscan Alliance and Beacon Health System entered into an agreement in 2018 for a 50/50 joint partnership to create Franciscan Beacon Hospital along Indiana 2 on the city's west side.

The 92,500-square-foot miniature hospital includes a 24-hour, 10-bed emergency department, eight inpatient beds for overnight care, laboratory services, an on-staff pharmacist, physical therapy, telehealth connectivity and the latest in imaging and diagnostic equipment.

**The 92,500-square-foot miniature hospital includes a 24-hour, 10-bed emergency department, eight inpatient beds for overnight care, laboratory services, an on-staff pharmacist, physical therapy, telehealth connectivity and the latest in imaging and diagnostic equipment.**

As part of the acquisition, officials said all Beacon Health System nursing, imaging staff and patient access employees currently employed at the hospital, which is more than 30 people, will become Franciscan Alliance employees.

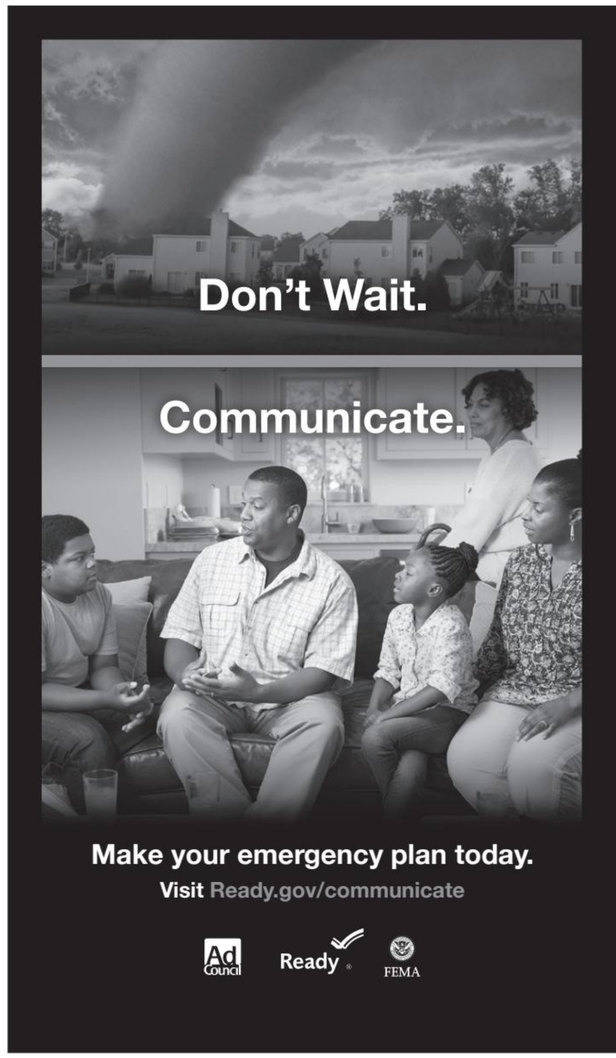
Officials said the acquisition supports Franciscan Alliance's regional approach to healthcare, which optimizes facilities and resources to improve the level of care for all of Northwest Indiana.

"We are thrilled to further expand our healthcare services in La Porte with the acquisition of Franciscan Beacon Hospital," said Franciscan Health Michigan City President and CEO Dean Mazzoni.

Physicians and other staff members at a Beacon Medical Group medical office building attached to the hospital will remain in their current locations as Beacon staff members, officials said.

"Beacon and Franciscan Health strive to do what is in the best interest for the community and will continue to partner in other ways to provide high-quality healthcare for the La Porte region," said Diane Maas, chief strategy and digital growth officer at Beacon Health System.

The closing date for the acquisition is scheduled for March 1.



# A portable oasis of wellness anywhere you go

## THE HEAT HUT

In the serene landscapes of Saint Joseph, Michigan, a revolution in relaxation is taking place with The Heat Hut wood-burning sauna. Imagine a portable haven that brings the ancient tradition of dry sauna therapy to your fingertips, offering not only the warmth of a traditional sauna but also the freedom to take it with you wherever you desire.

The Heat Hut is not just a sauna; it's a journey into holistic well-being. Dry sauna sessions have long been cherished for their myriad health benefits. As the body sweats out toxins, muscles relax, and stress melts away. The penetrating warmth promotes improved circulation, skin rejuvenation, and a deep sense of calm. The Heat Hut is designed to provide these therapeutic benefits, offering you a personal oasis of tranquility amid the chaos of daily life.

What sets The Heat Hut apart is its remarkable portability. Crafted with convenience in mind, this wood-burning sauna is ingeniously designed for those who crave relaxation on the go. Inspired by a personal desire for a dry sauna without the hefty price tag, the owners, Vince and Carly Pinto, a husband-and-wife team, share, "We always wanted a dry sauna but couldn't justify spending thousands on a big, bulky unit. The Heat Hut was born out of our passion for wellness and the need for an affordable, portable solution." Whether you're embarking on a camping trip, a beach getaway, or simply seeking solace in your backyard, The Heat Hut effortlessly transforms any space into a sanctuary of serenity and nature becomes the backdrop to your wellness journey, amplifying the therapeutic effects of the sauna experience.

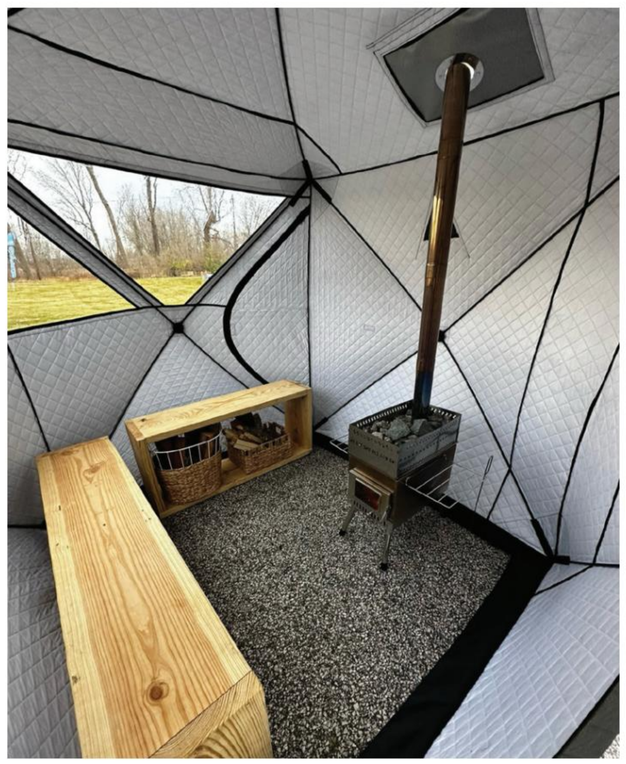
The passionate duo behind The Heat Hut shares their personal connection to saunas: "Saunas have been a vital part of our lifestyle. "My wife, a herbalist and community educator, brings her deep knowledge of natural wellness into The Heat Hut experience. As for me, an active participant in the primitive wellness community, consisting of cold plunges and tent saunas, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of this ancient practice." Their commitment to well-being and affordability is woven into the fabric of The Heat Hut. Another main reason was to escape the crowds. In a candid admission, they share, "Public dry saunas were always busy with people, and quite frankly, they were not the most hygienic places. We wanted an option where we could enjoy the benefits of a dry sauna without the crowds and the concerns about cleanliness."

The owners emphasize the practicality of The Heat Hut and understand the hesitation when it comes to investing in a sauna. That's why The Heat Hut is priced under $1,000 and is still designed to reach up to 200 degrees in just 15 minutes. Powered by dry firewood and sauna steam rocks, it's a cost-effective, efficient solution that doesn't compromise on the authentic sauna experience.

As you embark on your journey to better health and relaxation, The Heat Hut invites you to explore the transformative power of dry sauna therapy. Call them to learn more about the benefits, the portability, and the off-grid capabilities that make The Heat Hut a unique haven of well-being.

Call 269-235-9636,or visit www.heat-hut-saunas.square.site to learn more. Follow on Instagram (@heathutsaunas) or email heathutsaunas@gmail.com.

— STAFF REPORTS



Julie Haberichter and Ferris McQuade

## BE HEALTHY

Goldberry Wood's first Holistic Happy Hour and New Year Inner Visioning event took place Saturday, Jan. 20, in snowy Union Pier.

The event was the first of many new experiences that will be free to guests and open to the public.

For more upcoming events, visit www.goldberrywoods.com.

— STAFF REPORTS

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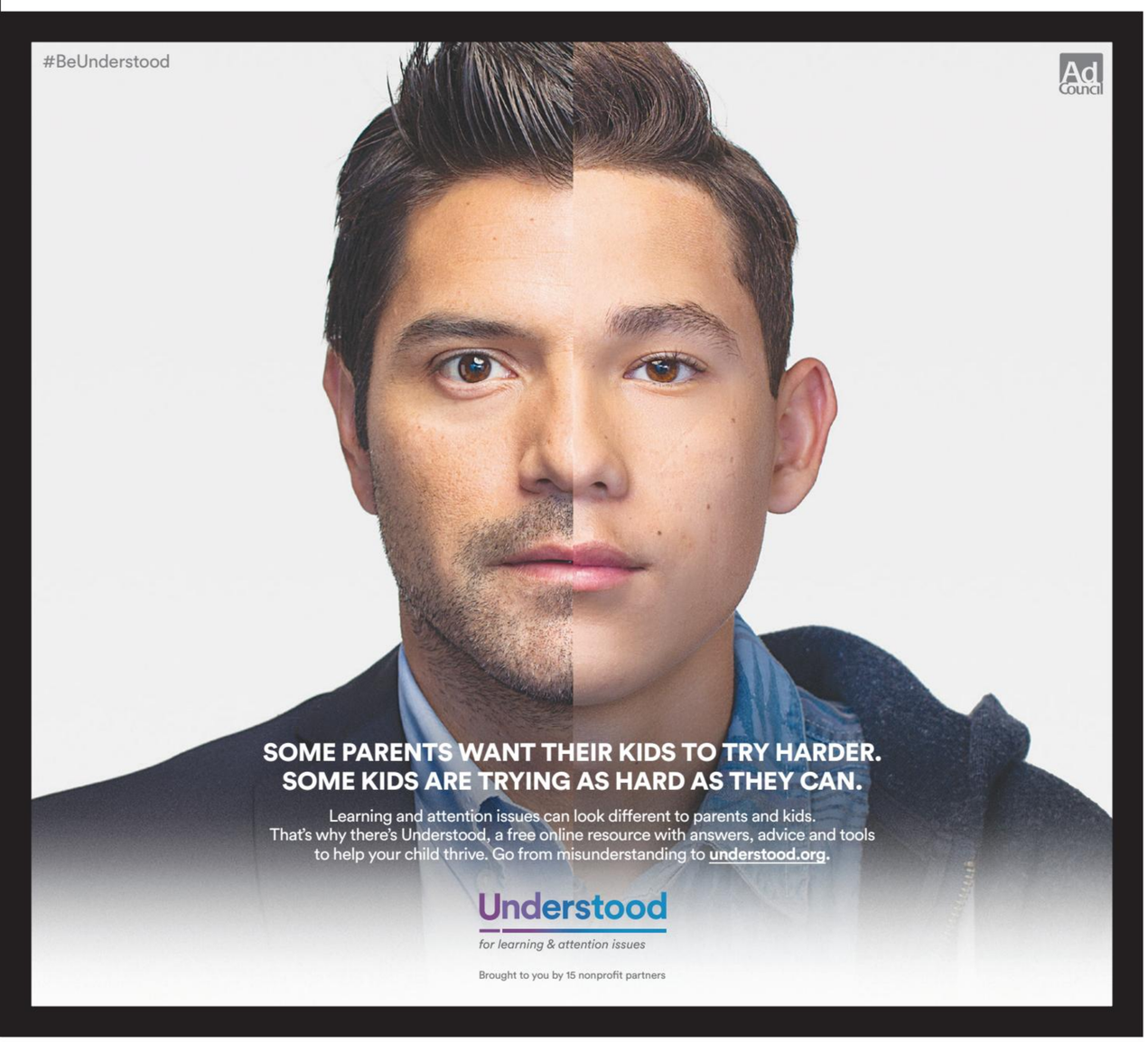
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